Economic Update January 2018

Economic Indicators

The **New Housing Price Index** for St. John's Metro was 98.9 in October 2017 down -1.1%**

The **Consumer Price Index** for St. John's Metro was 13.2 in November 2017 up 1.8%*

Retail trade for Newfoundland and Labrador was $796.8 million in October 2017 up 6.1%*

* same month in the previous year.
** With the release of the New Housing Price Index (NHPI) January 2017 data, the index base period, for which the NHPI equals 100, is December 2016.

Labour Force Characteristics

... as of December 2017

Labour Force	119,800 (down 5.2%)
Unemployment Rate	8.2% (down 1.6 ppts)
Employment Rate	59.5% (down 3.0 ppts)
Participation Rate	64.8% (down 4.5 ppts)

St. John's CMA, seasonally adjusted, three-month moving average. Percentage change reflects the same month previous year..

Business Briefs

Survey of Household Spending, 2016

Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) households spent an annual average of $58,248 on goods and services ranging from clothing to communications in 2016, up 2.0% from 2015. Overall, households in NL spent the smallest share on shelter (23.7%) in the country. On transportation, NL households spent an average of $12,838 in 2016, down 3.6% from 2015 and accounting for 19.2% of total expenditure. On average, NL households spent $8,938 on food, an increase of 8.2% over 2015 and accounting for 14.1% of total expenditure. In Newfoundland and Labrador, more households owned a cell phone (87.6%) than a landline phone (86.6%). Meanwhile, only 12.7% of households in NL reported having only a cell phone and no landline, compared with 32.6% of households in Canada. www.statcan.gc.ca

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TradeNL supports increased trade and investment activities in the private sector

Several industry groups are working collaboratively to develop an international business development resource for firms in Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) to support increased trade and investment activities in the province. A website, www.tradenl.ca, provides a listing of upcoming international business development missions that NL firms are eligible to participate in. The website also lists international business development programming provided by NL's industry associations that may support a business's priorities – from the

perspective of specific sectors or specific international markets.

ExxonMobil seeks rig to drill in Flemish Pass

ExxonMobil Canada is in the process of pre-qualifying companies that can supply a harsh-environment drill rig to carry out an exploration program in the Flemish Pass in the summer of 2019. The rig hunt was one of two expressions of interest issued in late December indicating interest in this frontier region in offshore Newfoundland and Labrador is still high. It has also filed an environmental impact statement with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. ExxonMobil and its partners committed to spend a record $559 million in exploration on this licence when it acquired the parcel three years ago.

City Building Permits (year to date)

January 1- December 31, 2017:

- **Commercial** permits were up 32% to $173,008,394 for 2017 over $131,142,990 for 2016
- **Industrial** permits were valued at $5,100,000 for 2017; up from $0 permits in 2016
- **Government/Institutional** permits were down 68% from $6,053,109 in 2016 to $1,952,594 in 2017.*
- **Residential** permits were down this year, 5% over 2016: $88,755,674 for 2017 over $93,743,809 for 2016.
- **Repairs** were down 27%, from $4,474,279 in 2016 to $3,250,698 in 2017

** Note that this data doe not include the full range of permit activity undertaken by the provincial government and its agencies.*

Business Approvals

Just Goody Market, 336 Freshwater Rd.
The Nacho Shoppe, 279 Portugal Cove Rd.

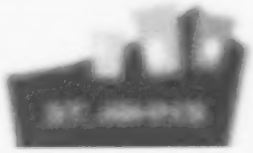
Home-based Businesses

IT consultant, 19 Suez St.

Total 2017 151

- Regular 86
- Home-based 65

City Initiatives



City of St. John's Business and Development Activity

In 2017, the City of St. John's approved 151 new businesses, 43% (or 65) of those were home-based. In 2016, 142 new businesses were approved by Council. In addition, the City recorded more than $272 million in building permits, an increase of 16% over 2016. The value of commercial building permits increased 32% to $173 million in 2017. Some of the major construction projects valued over $10 million approved in 2017 included:

• Seniors home development, 134 Airport Heights Dr. $23.2 million
• Parking garage – Avalon Mall, 14 O'Leary Ave $21.2 million
• Hilton Garden Inn, 150 New Gower St. $19.5 million
• Canadian Coast Guard Atlantic headquarters, 250 Southside Rd. $18.2 million

Upcoming Events

January 16, Sustainable Masterplanning – Building Green Infrastructure into Town Planning
January 17, NLOWE workshop: WUBAR: Wake Up, Be Awesome, Repeat.
January 18, OceansAdvance AGM
January 18-19, Social Buying for Social Good
January 24, Futurpreneur Generate - Market Research worskshop
January 30, How Tax Policy Changes may Impact Private Business

January 31, Canada Business Guest Advisor – Accounting
January 31, Canada Business Guest Advisor – Marketing
February 8, Thriving On The Edge - A New World for Business

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